

SGM (Ret.) Mike Roger Vining, USA, was born in Greenville, Michigan, and graduated from Tri-County High School in 1968. I enlisted in the Army in July of 1968.

After completing Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, I attended the Ammunition Renovation Course at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. I then completed the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Program, Indian Head, Maryland, in May of 1969 and reported to the Technical Escort Unit, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland. During that time, I completed the Nuclear Weapons Disposal Course. In 1970, I deployed to the Republic of Vietnam where I was assigned to the 99th Ordnance Detachment (EOD), Phuoc Vinh. Upon completing 11 months of combat duty, I was honorably discharged from the United States Army in February 1971.

I reentered the Army in 1973 and was assigned to the 63rd Ordnance Detachment (EOD), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In 1978, I was accepted to the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (SFOD) – Delta (Airborne), where I served until 1985. I completed the first Operator Training Course (OTC-1), subsequently participating in numerous combat operations, including Operation EAGLE CLAW, the Iranian Hostage Rescue Mission, and Operation URGENT FURY, the invasion of Grenada. From 1985 to 1986, I was assigned to the 176th Ordnance Detachment (EOD), Fort Richardson, Alaska. I returned to 1st SFOD - Delta from 1986 to 1992, serving as Chief EOD Technician, Research and Development Sergeant Major, and Breaching Sergeant Major. During this tour, I deployed in support of Operation POCKET PLANNER, 1987 U.S. Federal Penitentiary Prison Riot, Atlanta, Georgia, and Operation DESERT STORM, Saudi Arabia. I served as an Exercise Planner at the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) from 1992 to 1996. During Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, Sept-Oct of 1994, I served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Joint Special Operations Task Force aboard the Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. America (CV-66) off the coast of Haiti.

I served as the Explosives Expert on the Downing Assessment Task Force, which investigated the 1996 Khobar Towers bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. My last tour of duty was as the Joint Special Operations Command J-3 Special Plans Sergeant Major involved with defeating hardened targets. I retired from the Army on 31 January 1999.

Honors include Recipient of *The Order of 1st SFOD-D - Delta Colors*, Serial Number 123, on 19 October 1995, for singularly exemplary contributions to 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment - Delta (Airborne). Recipient of the 2013 Art Macksey Citizenship Award presented by the Vietnam EOD Veterans Association. Inducted into the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame, Class of 2018.

I hold a B.S. in Sociology from the University of the State of New York. I am married to Donna Ikenberry, and we reside in South Fork, Colorado.

In the NATEODA, I have served as Chairperson of the Membership and Nomination Committee and as a member of the Bylaws, Communication, Convention, and Website Committee. I have been filling in as a NATEODA Director in a vacant position. I also conducted EOD historical research for the EOD Warrior Foundation, and I am a member of the EOD Heritage Museum committee.